**CROSSING THE WIRE** by Will Hobbs

This book is about Victor who is a 15 year old boy living in rural Mexico. In the beginning it introduces the fact that victor’s dad died when he was very young because of a construction accident so life is really hard for him his mom and his siblings. He figures out that it is going to be a really bad season on the farm, and since they are barely getting along as it is, he decides that he needs to get a better paying job and the only way he sees that becoming reality is to hop the border and to work in the United States. When Victor’s buddy, Rico tells him he doesn’t have enough cash to hire a human smuggler (a coyote as we learned in social studies). Victor however decides to leave his family and go alone, which without a coyote, is a very risky move considering that most of northern Mexico is dry dessert. Victor’s journey is a tough one but it is one that many people have to go through. Victor faces dehydration, hunger, and eventually getting shot at, but he makes it to the states and gets enough money to support his family back in Mexico.

Now comes the fascinating part, the recommendation. This was a very well written book, especially for this reading level. It gives you a sense that you are there mixed in with the action, that you are actually there with Victor and Rico. It feels like you are the one being pursued by Jarra and Morales, that is how much it feels like real life. The fact that all this is at a young adult reading level is just amazing. A lot of my peers read stuff that I really find absurd or just flat out meaningless. Personally I like historical fiction and stuff that actually is relevant to actual life. This book definitely blew me away; it shows just a glimpse of what people who are actually in this situation have to go through. **CROSSING THE WIRE** is definitely not the longest book with just over 200 pages. The fact that Victor’s fighting for his life every single moment is pretty deep for our reading level, this book also throws some questions that the reader has to answer for themselves, and sometimes that can be really tough. One of the ones that really stick out in my mind is “why go to all the trouble just to get sent back or get paid minimum wage?” Well run that through your mind a bit, the fact is Victor is faced with a decision. He can either let his family starve to death or actually try to do something about it. It’s like in **Memoirs of a Boy Soldier**; you would do anything if forced to human limits. This book takes some comprehension, so you have to have deep understanding to read this, it’s such a good book, though, if you have the time I’d highly recommend this. 10/10, no question about it.